

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for initiating a communications session involving two or more participants over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

 exchanging messages containing non-repudiable data between said participants to establish at least one trust relationship therebetween relating to the session, said non-repudiable data indicating one or more session control functions to be assumed by individual participants during the session; and then

 establishing the communications session.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the exchanging step comprises the following steps:

 defining one or more control functions to be performed by at least one of the participants during the session;

 communicating the defined control functions to the participants; at each participant:

 choosing which, if any, of the control functions the participant wishes to assume;

 generating a non-repudiable message indicating the chosen function(s); and

 transmitting the generated message to at least one of the other participants.

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3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the non-repudiable message comprises: data indicative of the chosen function(s); and at least one digital signature of the participant related to said data.

4. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~ claim 2, wherein the defining step comprises the step of communicating charging policy data including data indicative of the control functions to a first one of the participants who has requested it from a service provider; and the communicating step further comprises communicating the charging policy data from the first participant to the other participants.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, wherein at each other participant the generated non-repudiable message is transmitted back to the first participant.

6. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claims 4 or 5~~ claim 4, wherein the first participant assumes those control functions defined within the charging policy which no other participant has chosen to assume.

7. (original) A method for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

requesting session control function data from a server, said data defining one or more control functions to be performed during the communications session;
choosing which, if any, of said control functions to assume;
distributing said control function data to at least one other participant over the communications network;

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receiving a non-repudiable message from the at least one other participant containing non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions the at least one other participants has assumed.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said distributing step further comprises distributing to the at least one other participant non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed.

9. (original) A method for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

supplying, upon request from a participant, session control function data, said data defining one or more control functions to be performed during the communications session;

receiving non-repudiable data from said participants indicating which, if any, of the control functions each participant has assumed; and

storing said data.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, and further comprising the steps of: checking the received non-repudiable data for any conflicts in the assumed control functions between two or more participants; and

resolving any detected conflicts by assigning the disputed control function to only one of said participants who indicated that they would assume the function.

11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~claims 9 or 10~~ claim 9, and further comprising the steps of checking the received non-repudiable data to determine

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the control functions which have been assumed; and assigning any control functions which have not been assumed to a first participant, being the participant to which said network control function data was supplied.

12. (original) A method for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

receiving control function data from a first participant over the communications network, said control function data defining one or more control functions to be performed during the communications session;

choosing which, if any, of said control functions to assume;

generating a non-repudiable message containing non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed; and

sending said message to the first participant.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, and further comprising receiving, together with said control function data, non-repudiable data indicating which, if any, of the control functions have been assumed by the first participant

14. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7 to 13~~ claim 7, wherein said non-repudiable data comprises data indicative of a control function to be assumed, and a digital signature specific to the participant who has assumed the control function relating thereto.

15. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 7 to 14~~ claim 7, wherein said non-repudiable data further comprises a nonce value specific to the

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communications session, and a digital signature specific to the participant who has generated said non-repudiable data relating to the nonce value.

16. (currently amended) A computer program arranged such that when executed by a computer system it causes the computer system to operate according to any of the preceding claims claim 1.

17. (original) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 16.

18. (currently amended) A system for establishing at least one trust relationship between two or more participants and relating to a communications session between said participants over a communications network, said system comprising processing means arranged to operate according to the method of any of claims 1 to 15 claim 1.